

December 28, 1999

Jane Henney, M.D.

Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration

5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471

Rockville, MD 20857

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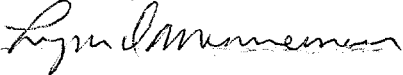
Dear Commissioner:

Overuse of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock has been linked to the emergence of antibiotic-resistant diseases. Many of the drugs used to enhance growth in chickens, pigs and cattle are the same as, or closely related to, those used to treat people.

Fearing a rise in untreatable infectious diseases, the European Union has banned all growth-promoting uses of antibiotics used in human medicine. In the United States, however, the Food and Drug Administration has taken no action against drugs currently in use. Instead, it has merely begun a series of meetings to discuss possible restrictions on new approvals of antibiotics.

I urge the FDA to follow the EU's lead and move immediately to ban animal uses of growth-promoting antibiotics used in human medicine.

Sincerely,



Lynn I. Minneman

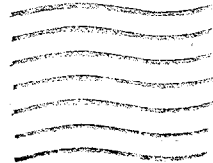
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